

owner built about his property a 50-foot board fence topped with 12-foot iron spikes, covering the ground inside with barbed wires and sharpened spikes.

One of the Clement-Bayard army dirigibles came to grief on the spikes, and in a suit which followed Coquerel was ordered to remove the obstacles and pay for the damage done thereby. The Court of Appeals today upheld the decision.

2,300 MESSENGER BOYS MAY ORGANIZE UNION

The Western Union and the Postal Telegraph Companies may be called upon to face more foes, which, while they may not be as effective as the United States government, will cause these two big trusts considerable worry.

For, with the encouragement of Mrs. Fred Packard, president of the State Humane Society, the messenger boys in the service of these two companies may organize and strike to do away with the present conditions of slavery.

"Everybody is working for better conditions for working women," said Mrs. Packard, "but none seems to take any interest in these poor boys. They have been organized into a sort of club for five years now and they're waiting for just a little support and they will then show the telegraph magnates they will no longer tolerate such conditions. There are 2,300 messenger boys in Chicago and they must be taken into consideration.

"When we organized five years ago the superintendents of the Postal and Western Union companies came to me and tried to forbid us from doing so. I told them that they didn't own the boys' bodies and souls and could not prevent them from organizing, if the boys felt like it."

The boys are between 14 and 16 years old and are supposed to work ten hours a day. But many of the boys complain of being forced to work twelve and thirteen hours a

day. For this they are paid a cent and a half, and sometimes two and a half cents a message, often for very hard and long trips. Many times, they complain, by a system of juggling, they are cheated out of it, or lose it through the imposition of a fine. In this way the more sturdy boys are able to earn a dollar a day, but the majority of the boys earn only \$3.50 and \$4 a week.

And out of this meager sum they have to buy shoes that are worn out rapidly in the course of their work.

Another thing that the boys protest against is the charge for cleaning and pressing the uniforms. The boys used to buy their own uniforms from the companies, but it was found that more money could be squeezed out of the boys by giving them the uniforms and then charging them for a service, that in a great many instances is not performed at all.

The most ridiculous thing, if it were not such a serious matter to the underpaid boys, is the charge for this. The Western Union takes 87 cents every two weeks out of their pay for this and the Postal takes \$1 every month.

They say this is for the benefit of the service, as the boys must look neat and clean. The mothers have no chance to do this work and retain the money.

Messenger boys are fined from 1 to 5 cents for being a few minutes late, although they get paid by the message.

One boy, employed by the Western Union, recently worked three weeks and received no pay. His mother called at the office and was told that he was entitled to no pay because his fines amounted to what would have been due him.

With \$20 in his pocket, a San Diegoan went to jail rather than pay a 50-cent restaurant bill. Once in a while the true American spirit flashes forth in all its pristine glory, or something equally as good.